

# On The Go .....

## Latino Affairs November Commission Meeting

The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs (ICLA) commission met on Wednesday, November 4th, 2009 from 2:00p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Lucas State Building, 321 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in the Auditors Conference Room 204 in Des Moines. Several members of the community attended.



The Division of Latino Affairs is legislatively mandated to promote and advocate for Iowa Latinos under Iowa Code Section 216A. 12.

The Commission of Latino Affairs will meet the fourth Friday of every other month beginning on January 22nd, 2009 from 2-5p.m.. For more information, please contact the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs at 515-281-7015.

## Let Us Hear From You

### Request for Program Information

Goal 4 of the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Strategic Plan for 2009-2012 states that the **ICLA will advocate for, collaborate on and implement programs designed to address the needs of Latinos**. In a collaborative effort, the Division of Latino Affairs and Latinos Unidos, Inc. will work together to locate and compile information regarding existing and future programs.

We need your help to locate existing programs that assist the Latino community. We would also like to know about any existing programs that may have funding reduced or be eliminated in 2010 due to the current economic crisis.

Please email [Melissa.Esquivel@iowa.gov](mailto:Melissa.Esquivel@iowa.gov) or Lena Avila Robison [iowalatina@msn.com](mailto:iowalatina@msn.com) by 4p.m. on Friday, November 27, 2009, with information regarding existing programs that assist our constituents.

We will compile the data, identifying areas in which programs may be created to meet the needs of the Latino community.

In appreciation of your help with attaining information, we will provide you with a copy of the compiled information received by mid-December.

November 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

### Upcoming Events:

- Group Parenting Classes Nov. 5, 2009, 6-7p.m.
- 5th Annual College Prep Day Nov. 7, 2009, 10a.m. - 3p.m.
- Refugee Legal Clinic November 7, 2009, 9am - 3p.m. at Grubb YMCA in Des Moines
- Conversation about Cancer in Latino Community November 10, 2009, 2-4p.m. at the Iowa Historical Building
- HOLA Legal Clinic November 9, 2009 5:30 - 7:30p.m.
- Latinos Unidos Resource Fair on November 10, 2009, 5:30 - 8p.m.
- Women of Innovation Student Session on November 10, 2009, 3 - 6p.m.
- LUNA Open House November 12, 2009, 4 - 7p.m.
- Iowa Youth Congress Annual Session November 13 - 14, 2009
- Heartland Latino Leadership Conference November 13, 2009 in Omaha, NE
- Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit November 14, 2009 at Drake University
- Breaking Bread, Breaking Barriers November 22, 2009 in Decorah
- Different Colors of Violence Youth Conference Dec. 10-11, 2009—Grand View University

### Educate Yourself:

- Latinos in Iowa: 2009
- The State of Latino Children and Youth in the United States
- Breast Cancer Guide for Women
- Obama Signs Hate Crimes Bill into Law

# Director's Corner

Dear Latino Community:

As many of you are aware, there has been an extended delay in the search for a new Division Administrator for the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs (IDLA) within the Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR). Several major steps were taken to fill this important vacancy and to provide sound leadership for the Commission of Latino Affairs. Budget reductions in 2009 and uncertainty about the state's economy have slowed the process considerably, and it has been determined that we are not able to move forward in the hiring process at this time.

Recently, Governor Chet Culver announced that the State of Iowa was experiencing one of the most significant revenue shortfalls in our history. It was necessary for the Governor to take swift and decisive measures to balance the state budget. Due to the magnitude of the shortfall, the Governor announced an across the board budget cut of ten percent. While this bold stroke demonstrates the Governor's leadership in anticipating further decreases in revenue in light of his Constitutional obligation to balance the State's budget, it does mean that many state departments, including DHR, must find ways to trim our budgets while continuing to provide essential services to our constituents.

The ten percent reduction in our department's budget means an overall reduction in excess of \$313,000. DHR staff and I have been working diligently to find ways to reduce our budget and continue to provide services to those in need, without lay-offs of workers during this very difficult time. One of the difficult measures that I have had to recommend to the Governor is a reduction in staff positions. I have recommended that we begin by not filling our currently vacant positions. Among several positions that we will be unable to fill is the Division Administrator for IDLA. Also, the Commission on Native American Affairs is also without an administrator.

I am happy to report to you that prior to the budget reductions, DHR has been finalizing its legislative proposal for departmental reorganization that will ensure the Latino community and other customer groups served by DHR will not see a reduction in services. In fact, it is our plan that you will see enhanced services. Because of efficiencies achieved in our plan, we believe that IDLA and other groups within DHR will have access to more grant and collaborative opportunities, as well as more services like data analysis and advocacy on policies that support the success and well-being of our populations. In fact, our proposed reorganization, combined with not filling the department's current vacancies, positions us as one of the departments whose services to the public will not be greatly diminished.

Melissa Esquivel has been filling the role of Interim Division Administrator. Under her tenure, IDLA has a number of achievements, such as: development of the Commission's first-ever strategic plan, compilation of soon-to-be-released directories of Latino-owned or Latino-serving agencies and businesses and of nursing home services for Spanish speakers, and initiation of a staff volunteer commitment to HOLA Legal Clinic. You may be aware that Melissa developed the Iowa Youth Congress project, and that its Fourth Session is fast approaching. Because of these accomplishments and many more, Melissa will retain her position as Interim Administrator. With support and guidance from DHR, I know she will continue to perform at a very high level for the Commission and the Latino community.

In closing, the Iowa Department of Human Rights will continue to serve the Latino community by providing the needed personnel and support services needed to address the issues and concerns of our Latino friends, neighbors and residents of the State of Iowa in coordination with the other populations we serve. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

Preston Daniels



**See it For Yourself:**  
The Coming Generation  
of Iowa's Leaders!



Students participate in the 3rd Annual Session  
Iowa House Chamber, 2008.

## Program Description

The Iowa Youth Congress gives young minority students the opportunity to influence public policy in Iowa.

Since 2006, thousands of high school students from the Iowa schools with the highest minority populations have elected representatives to the Iowa Youth Congress. Each year those 100 representatives and 100 alternates convene in the Iowa House Chambers to propose, debate and pass bills.

Students say the experience has "opened their eyes tremendously." They credit the Youth Congress with revealing possibilities and providing direct experience with representative government, democratic values and civic participation.

## Ed Barnes

Dream Forward Dinner  
Keynote Speaker

Ed C. Barnes is currently the Executive Director of the Willkie House, Inc., a youth development and child enrichment center. It is the oldest African-American community-based organization in the state of Iowa, having operated for more than 92 years. The ultimate vision of the Willkie House is to assist young people in reaching their highest potential.

Ed is a licensed social worker, a Substance Abuse Assessment Counselor, and a certified HIV/AIDS educator. As an author and trainer of cultural diversity and inclusiveness, Ed has lectured widely throughout the state and country focusing on issues pivotal to the promotion of health, wellness and spiritual well being.

**Individual Dream Forward Dinner tickets  
are \$30 each.**

**To order contact: Heather Stanley at  
(515) 281-4080 or  
heather.stanley@iowa.gov**

**Friday, November 13th, 2009**

**4th Iowa Youth Congress Session**  
Iowa House Chamber

9:00AM – 4:00PM

**3rd Annual Dream Forward Dinner**  
Embassy Suites  
101 E. Locust Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

4:15PM—6:15PM: College Fair  
6:30PM—9:00PM: Dream Forward Dinner  
9:00PM—11:00PM: Dance



Students at the 2nd Annual Dream Forward  
Dinner and Dance.

Dream Forward Sponsors:



**Rockwell  
Collins**





Iowa Division of Latino Affairs  
Lucas State Building  
321 E 12th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Iowa Division of Latino Affairs: On the Go newsletter will be sent monthly with up-to-date information on the agency, activities and upcoming events to keep our constituents informed. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

The Division of Latino Affairs is legislatively mandated to promote and advocate for Iowa Latinos.

## Grants Available for Southern Iowa Nonprofit Organizations

Small southern Iowa nonprofit organizations located within 14 rural Iowa counties that are interested in building and enhancing their capacity to serve in need Iowans are encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$20,000 from Strengthen Rural Iowa, a new project funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 -- Strengthening Communities Fund – Nonprofit Capacity Building Program.

Only small southern Iowa nonprofit organizations located in **Appanoose, Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Mahaska, Monroe, Van Buren, Wapello and Wayne** counties are eligible for these grants. For more info, click [here](#).



Photos Left: Congressman Boswell visits La Tapatia Mexican Store as part of a tour with Alianza, the Latino Business Association, in Des Moines. Alianza board president Claudia Schabel is pictured on the right.



Photos Above: Congressman Boswell joins Juan Rodriguez in cutting a ribbon to celebrate the opening of Mundo Latino Diversity Insurance in Des Moines.

## Latino Affairs Directory

Attention Latino community and Latino Service Providers

**Purpose:** to provide a resource to the Latino constituents and their service providers in order to enhance communication and meet community needs. Information in the directory will be free and available to the public on the Latino Affairs website.

**Deadline:** **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010** to submit business/organization information.

To complete our form click here [Information Request Form](#).



## 2010 Census Iowa Roundtable

Join us at the monthly meetings of the 2010 Census Iowa Roundtable to learn more about the 2010 Census and how it affects Iowans. The Roundtable is an opportunity to share information, get updates on Census activities, ask questions of Census Bureau staff, and brainstorm new ways to increase Iowans' participation in the census.

The Roundtable meets the first Friday of each month and is open to any organization with a stake in making the 2010 Census in Iowa the best it can possibly be. Meetings are held at 10:30 a.m. in the Forrest Spaulding Conference Room (Room 310) of the Ola Babcock Miller Building at 1112 E. Grand, Des Moines, Iowa. Meetings are also held at the following ICN locations: Ames High School (ICN Node 71), Bettendorf Public Library (ICN Node 465), Cedar Falls UNI-1 (ICN Node 48), Council Bluffs Public Library (ICN Node 672), Iowa City Public Library (ICN Node 694), Marion Public Library (ICN Node 410), and Sioux City Public Library (ICN Node 713).

Upcoming meetings :

2009: November 6, December 4

2010: January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4

## ABC's *EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION* NOW SEARCHING FOR DESERVING FAMILIES IN IOWA!

Do you know someone whose home deserves an Extreme Makeover? If so, the producers of ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* want to hear from you! Ty Pennington and his crew have been all across the map and they are ready to drive that famous bus into your neighborhood. Deadline is November 10, 2009 For more information click [here](#).

## Helpful Resources

- [Iowa Rental Help - Assistance Available for Iowa Renters!](#)
- [INFLUENZA: Hoja informativa sobre vacunación](#)
- [International Guide to Iowa](#)